

## MORNING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. **Amen.**

### PSALM 95:1 - 7

#### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

*Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Isaiah 5:1-7 2</i>	<i>Luke 7:28-35</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Isaiah 5:8-12, 18-23</i>	<i>Luke 21:20-28</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 5:13-17, 24-25</i>	<i>Luke 21:29-38</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 6:1-13</i>	<i>John 7:53—8:11</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:1-9</i>	<i>Luke 22:1-13</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-25</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-30</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Isaiah 8:1-15</i>	<i>Luke 22:31-38</i>

#### REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

##### PRAYERS

*The Church throughout the World*  
*The World: for peace and goodwill among neighbors*  
*Our Nation and her Leaders*  
*Our Community*  
*Grace Episcopal Church*  
*My own Thanksgivings and Concerns*

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

##### COLLECT

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

##### BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

## EVENING PRAYER

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*Psalm 141:2*

### PSALM 121

#### READING FROM SCRIPTURE

*Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Pet. 3:11-18</i>	<i>Luke 7:28-35</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11</i>	<i>Luke 21:20-28</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:12-28</i>	<i>Luke 21:29-38</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 1:1-12</i>	<i>John 7:53—8:11</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 2:1-12</i>	<i>Luke 22:1-13</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 2:13—3:5</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-30</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 3:6-18</i>	<i>Luke 22:31-38</i>

#### REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

##### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

##### COLLECT

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

#### THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free\*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

## WEEK TWO: LEARNING TO THINK HOPE

Advent is finally here. Finally we can wait. That is what Advent is about. We are waiting on Christ to return, both to restore justice and peace to the earth ultimately but also to come again seasonally at Christmas. So Advent is also about preparation.

Christ is given the name *Emmanuel* at the proclamations of his birth. That means “God with us.” And the other name for Christmas in our Book of Common Prayer is the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Incarnation* theologically refers to God being *enfleshed*, being born as a human being to be with us.

God comes to us, that is our faith, but it also a not-yet faith of waiting on the completion of the promises of justice and peace and “goodwill to all humanity.” So we have work to do, and liturgy means “work.”

Hope is work. I have come to realize that Hope doesn’t just show up because things are grand. Hope is a way of being, a way of thinking, a way of looking forward past the current moment.

Hope is belief in things not seen. We hope for the Rule of God, that God is our Compassionate Parent, loving, gracious and merciful. And we believe in that in the face of a world of competition, gossip, murder, and hate. We hold out our faith in the one who has named us as fellow heirs and brothers and sisters, the children of God. And we hold out that faith even though the world is pretty clear that we are little more than competitive consumers in a race to the end.

We have to learn to think this way. We shape our thinking in prayer and study. We shape our thinking with our hands when we serve in the face of doubt and even dubious evidence. We shape our thinking by consistently holding on to our way of being.

This way of being is good. I have been shaped by messages that praise a stoic lack of compassion, looking out for number one, taking the easy way, and even celebrating those things that are wrong. Paul’s letters warn us of days like this. So it takes work to *be* a Christian. Being a little Christ means being good in the midst of the bad. It is tough stuff. So we return to the school of prayer, scripture, and open hands.

Worship, Study, and Service with an ethic of Welcome. That is how we incarnate Grace. It’s our way of life.



## ADVENT DAILY PRAYER

### Week Two

*In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Isaiah 40:3*

### CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

O, Lord, open our lips,  
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.



**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Since 1867